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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mobius to Celebrate National Mentoring Month 2014 with Gathering at the Statehouse

Mobius is proud to announce a celebratory gathering at the Statehouse in Montpelier on Tuesday, January 14, at 10 a.m. to highlight National Mentoring Month (NMM) in Vermont. The event will be a celebration of mentoring around the state, and will commemorate Mobius' first year as Vermont's Mentoring Partnership. The festivities will be open to mentoring staff, mentors and mentees, and supporters of the cause from across Vermont.

"We are excited for this unique opportunity to highlight the important work that mentoring programs, volunteer mentors, and champions of the cause from all corners of the state are doing to support young Vermonters," said Chad Butt, Executive Director of Mobius.

Anne Gallivan, a member of the Vermont House of Representatives (Rutland-Windsor 1), and a mentor through The Mentor Connector in Rutland, will organize the reading of an NMM resolution, and recognize mentor pairs and supporters on the House floor. Mentors and mentees will also be invited to tour the statehouse and eat lunch together in the statehouse cafeteria.

The theme of this year's NMM campaign is "Mentoring Works!," and throughout the month of January, Mobius is partnering with mentoring programs, the Vermont Agency of Education, and supporters from the state government and local foundations, to highlight the many proven benefits mentoring provides for Vermont's young people. These benefits include improved school and class attendance, better relationships with peers and family members, and a greater sense of connectedness to their schools and communities. Mentors help young people envision brighter futures for themselves, and to become happier, more productive members of society.

National Mentoring Month 2014 is the culmination of Mobius' first year as Vermont's Mentoring Partnership. In addition to the Statehouse celebration, Mobius and mentoring programs around the state are organizing a wide variety of activities to promote the mentoring cause, including mentor recognition events, mentor pair activities, and benefit dinners at local restaurants. For more information on National Mentoring Month events in Vermont, please visit Mobius' events calendar at www.mobiusmentors.org.

"It has been a wonderful journey to help form the new direction of Mobius as a statewide agency," said Gabriella Tufo Strouse, mentoring coordinator at the King Street Center in Burlington, and a founding member of Mobius' Program Leadership Council. "I truly believe that Mobius, working alongside the Program Leadership Council and local mentoring programs, can develop a culture of mentoring and help to ensure that every young person who needs a mentor gets one."

National Mentoring Month, now in its 13th year, is a national campaign held each January to thank current mentors and recruit new volunteers. The campaign is spearheaded by the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR (The National Mentoring Partnership), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the United Way Worldwide, and the Corporation for National and Community Service.

About Mobius, Vermont's Mentoring Partnership:

Mobius' mission is to develop a culture of mentoring in Vermont communities. Mobius is supported by the Permanent Fund for Vermont's Children, the A.D. Henderson Foundation, and the State of Vermont. For more information about Mobius and its mentoring initiatives throughout the state, please visit mobiusmentors.org.